

# 2006-2007 RECIPIENTS OF THE ASSESSMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD

## B.S.W. IN SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

### THE EXCELLENCE IN ASSESSMENT AWARD: RECOGNIZING EXCEPTIONAL WORK IN SHOWING THAT LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IS TAKING PLACE ON JMU'S CAMPUS

JMU programs have been engaged in exceptional assessment efforts since the establishment of quality assessment as a central initiative on the campus in 1986. This year the university has begun to recognize these quality efforts through the establishment of the Excellence in Assessment Award. The recognition is coordinated and selected by the JMU Assessment Advisory Committee, a cross-divisional group of campus faculty, staff, and administrators who are committed to the advancement of quality assessment on the campus. In pursuit of this endeavor, the Assessment Advisory Committee presents the Excellence in Assessment Award to a program that has demonstrated excellence in their assessment processes through a team-based approach to determining the effectiveness of their programs. The committee selects the awardee from all programs on JMU's campus, as judged by the six aspects of the university's Assessment Progress Template: (1) Quality Objectives, (2) Connection to Course/Learning Experiences, (3) Informed Evaluation/Assessment Methods, (4) Objective Accomplishments and/or Results, (5) Appropriate Dissemination of Findings, and (6) Positive Actions Taken due to Evaluation/Assessment Results.

### THE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM: 2006-2007 AWARD WINNERS

JMU has many outstanding assessment programs. The selection committee was particularly impressed by Social Work's consistent record of strong program assessment centered on multiple methods of evaluating student learning in light of the stringent criteria set forth in the social work profession. The Social Work program is the only program that requires all students to complete and meet rigorous criteria for both a written and an oral comprehensive examination to graduate from JMU with the BSW degree. The entire faculty of the program is fully engaged in the evaluation of students, the review of findings, and use of the results. The Social Work program

(continued on reverse)

<http://www.jmu.edu/socwork/>  
<http://www.jmu.edu/assessment>



Student from the Social Work Program at the 2006 National Association of Social Work - Virginia Lobby Day in Richmond.



Dr. Ann Myers  
Head, Dept. of Social Work  
Professor of Social Work  
Director of the Aging, Family and Intergenerational Studies Program

#### **Assessment is a Team Effort... The Social Work Faculty and Staff**

##### Full-Time Faculty

- R. Ann Myers
- B.J. Bryson
- Karen Ford
- Cindy Hunter
- ETTY Vandsburger
- Nancy Poe Wingfield
- Hyong Yeom

##### Lifelong Learning Institute

- Nancy Owens

##### Acting Out

- B.J. Bryson

##### Social Work Staff

- Gerri Rigney

Source: Dept. of Social Work  
Web site

## THE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM: 2006-2007 AWARD WINNERS

should be further commended for making positive program changes as a result of their assessment results. The JMU Social Work assessment program is widely recognized and has been sought for consultation by other academic programs on other campuses. The selection committee membership wishes it to be known that the Social Work program has received commendations by accreditation site visitors on multiple occasions. Finally, when alumni report back to the faculty after graduation, they report feeling very well prepared for graduate school or social work practice and have asked the faculty to maintain their rigorous assessment program to assure that future students enjoy the same feeling of confidence.

## ABOUT THE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

The JMU Social Work Program prepares students for beginning professional practice. Social Work majors at JMU earn a Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) degree, which is the entry level for professional social work practice as recognized by the National Association of Social Workers. The JMU program is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

The Social Work Program at JMU began in 1962 within the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work. The Social Work Program was established as a separate department on July 1, 1989. The department is a member of the School of Health and Human Services within the College of Integrated Science and Technology. The Social Work Department offers a major for students working toward a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree. The program consists of 42 hours of core courses plus electives.

The department also offers three minor programs:

- Gerontology
- Family Studies
- Nonprofit Studies



James Madison University is a public, comprehensive university and is the only university in America named for James Madison. The university offers programs on the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels, but its primary emphasis is on the undergraduate student. JMU provides a total education to students — one that has a broad range of liberal arts as its foundation and encompasses an extensive variety of professional and pre-professional programs, augmented by a multitude of learning experiences outside the classroom. The high quality of the JMU experience has been recognized repeatedly in many national publications.

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